



Inside Ag

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The Colorado Department of Agriculture in Partnership with Farmers' Markets



Spring is here once again and Colorado shoppers are looking forward to finding fresh produce in our local farmers' markets. There is a myriad of products found in these markets, including locally-grown fruits and vegetables which are harvested at their peak. Quality items such as these attract consumers to markets located throughout the state from spring through fall.

Many of the products found in farmers' markets come straight from the grower. This eliminates the middle man and reduces transportation costs which allows growers and others to sell their produce and prepared food products to purchasers for a better price and in an efficient, environmentally friendly way.

The [Colorado Department of Agriculture](#) (CDA) is committed to advancing and promoting the state's agricultural businesses and the more than 80 farmers' markets expected statewide in 2008 are no exception. Farmer's market information is available from the CDA [Division of Markets](#). Locally grown, raised and processed foods are identified through the [Colorado Proud](#) Program. Shoppers looking for a particular produce item will be assisted by the [Crop Calendar](#) available on the CDA web site.



In addition, the CDA has a role in protecting consumers and promoting an equitable marketplace at Farmers' Markets. ICS [Multiple Inspectors](#) perform weights and measures, egg, and animal feed program work at these markets. ICS [Farm Products Examiners](#) work with businesses and individuals that purchase Colorado farm products for resale.

If you are considering selling your products at a Farmers Market, please review the following information regarding the Department's requirements:

Scales

Commercially used scales must be licensed with CDA. CDA performs an annual test on each licensed scale. Vendors who offer commodities for sale by weight over a scale should be sure to obtain a legal-for-trade device.

Packaging and Labeling

Prepackaged commodities should be labeled with the following basic information:

- Product identity, such as "Peaches," unless the customer can easily identify what is in the package.
- Responsible party information (business name and address), unless the package is made up and sold at the same location.
- Quantity information.

All required information may be displayed on an adjacent sign. Example, "Peaches – 5 lb." Sellers should ensure that packages contain at least the declared amount!

Method of Sale

Commodity method of sale should facilitate value comparison. For instance, potatoes and grapes should be sold by weight, berries by weight or dry measure, and apples and peaches by weight or count.

Contact the [CDA Measurement Standards Section](#) for more information regarding the requirements for commercially used scales and method of sale, and packaging and labeling.

Farm Products

Anyone that purchases Colorado farm products for resale or processing must obtain a Farm Products License. This protects the owners and producers who sell farm products to dealers. Contact the [Farm Products Program](#) office for further information.

Eggs



CDA inspects chicken eggs to ensure wholesomeness, freshness and proper labeling. Anyone purchasing eggs for resale must license with the [CDA Egg Program](#).

Producers who sell eggs that are produced on their farm should properly wash and sanitize the eggs and be able to maintain them at a temperature below 41 degrees.

All egg sellers should check with their local health department for any additional requirements.

Pet Food

The [CDA Feed Program](#) ensures that animal food sold in Colorado is safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. Producers of pet food and treats should contact the Feed Program for information on registration, nutrient claims, proper labeling, and other requirements.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture works closely with farmers' markets state-wide to promote consumer protection and fair business practices. For additional information, please contact the CDA using the provided links or the following telephone numbers:

- Egg Program (303) 477-0054
- Farm Products (303) 477-0054
- Feed Program (303) 477-0081
- Measurement Standards (303) 477-4220
- Meat Program (303) 477-0293
- Markets Division (303) 239-4119